

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEAE-00 /085 W

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P 191400Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5819

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 16906

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENT ON MILITARY
SUPPLY POLICY

REF: ISLAMABAD 11766

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S ONLY COMMENT AT HIS DECEMBER 15 PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY. IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE US HAS "ANY ACTIVE POLICY...TO DISCOURAGE GROWING ARMAMENT IN THE SUBCONTINENT."

2. "WELL I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS CLEAR AND I GUESS I AM ENOUGH OF A PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT TO KNOW THAT SOME THINGS SINK IN PRETTY SLOWLY. BUT WHAT IN THE HELL DO WE HAVE TO DO, WE'RE THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH DOES NOT SELL ARMS TO SOUTH ASIA THAT HAS ANY ARMS TO SELL. WE'RE THE ONLY ONE. YOU NAME ME, ANYBODY HERE IN THIS ROOM, WANT TO NAME ME A COUNTRY THAT SELLS ARMS, THAT DOES NOT SELL ARMS TO SOUTH ASIA, EXCEPT US? COME ON GENTLEMEN, RAISE YOUR HANDS, I'M BACK AT SCHOOL ALREADY. CAN YOU NAME ONE. CAN ANYBODY HERE NAME A COUNTRY THAT PRODUCES ARMS FOR SALE THAT DOES NOT SELL THEM TO PAKISTAN, INDIA, BANGLADESH, CEYLON, WHATEVER, EXCEPTING THE UNITED STATES? HUH? WE'RE
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THE ONLY ONE THAT DOESN'T. AND WE'VE HAD THE POLICY IN EFFECT

SINCE 1965. THAT IS ONE-THIRD THE LIFE OF THE INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA. WE ARE THE ONLY PERSON THAT HAS THAT POLICY IN EFFECT AND YET CONTINUALLY WE ARE ASKED WHEN WE ARE GOING TO STOP SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOUTH ASIA. I--I CAN'T EXPRESS TO YOU THE CONFUSION IN MY MIND AS TO WHY IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH WHAT IS, AFTER ALL, A FAIRLY EXPLICIT FACT. AND NOR COULD I PREVENT MYSELF FROM SAYING THAT AS A GOVERNMENT WE ADOPTED THIS POLICY IN THE THOUGHT AND THE EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD BE MET WITH APPROVAL IN THE REGION TO WHICH IT HAS APPLIED. AND APPROVAL, AT LEAST, INVOLVES SOME MEASURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. AND IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO LIKE THE POLICY, WHO APPROVE IT, AND WISH IT TO PERSIST, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SUCH PERSONS MIGHT MAKE SOME EFFORT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT EXISTS - BECAUSE THERE IT SURELY IS BUT LITTLE ADVANTAGE IN PERSISTING IN A POLICY WHICH HAS NO MANIFEST BENEFITS WHATEVER. I'M NOT SAYING THAT THIS IS SO. BUT I MEAN THAT IF A POLICY IS DESIGNED TO WIN A MEASURE OF APPROVAL WINS NONE, THEN CLEARLY IT'S A FAILED POLICY. I DON'T THINK THIS IS A FAILED POLICY BUT I HOPE IT DOES NOT BECOME ONE."MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE16906
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0599
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741222/aaaaasuz.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 ISLAMABAD 11766
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENT ON MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, (MOYNIHAN, DANIEL P)
To: STATE ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005